



CORDIALLY INVITES YOU ON A CULTURAL ADVENTURE TO

AFRICA'S GOLD COAST: BENIN, TOGO & GHANA

MAGIC, MAJESTY & MASKS

OCTOBER 13 TO 28, 2027



A MAP OF YOUR JOURNEY TO AFRICA'S GOLD COAST: TOGO, GHANA & BENIN



YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1~ WEDNESDAY~ OCTOBER 13

USA/EN ROUTE

Today your journey begins as you board your overnight flight to Cotonou, Benin. (Meals Aloft)

DAY 2 ~ THURSDAY~ OCTOBER 14

COTONOU, BENIN

Arrive in Cotonou where you are met and escorted to your home for the evening, Maison Rouge. Check-in and enjoy some relaxing time after your long flight.

The 4-star contemporary Maison Rouge in Cotonou features views of the Gulf of Guinea and is close to local points of interest such as Fidjrosse Beach, Artisanal Center, and Cotonou Central Mosque. All rooms are en suite and come with free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, air conditioning, and minibars. There is an international restaurant with an outdoor dining area, plus a garden with a pool. Other amenities include a gym and a hot tub.

Overnight at the MAISON ROUGE. (No Meals)

<http://hotel-benin-maison-rouge-cotonou.com/>



DAY 3 ~ FRIDAY~ OCTOBER 15

COTONOU~ LAKE NOKWE

This morning cross Lake Nokwe with a motorized boat to reach Ganvie, the largest African stilt village. The approximately 25,000 inhabitants of the Tofinou ethnic group build their huts on teak stilts and cover the roofs with a thick layer of leaves. This village has managed to preserve its traditions and environment in the modern



era, with daily life that unfolds each day

around the canoes that men, women, and children guide using brightly colored poles.



In the afternoon discover the vibrant energy of Cotonou, Benin's bustling economic capital, where everyday life unfolds amid a lively flow of cars, market traders, and the city's famous zemidjans – motorbike taxis easily recognized by their colorful yellow and purple uniforms. The streets pulse with movement as riders weave through traffic, creating a fascinating and authentic glimpse into the rhythm of urban West Africa.

Your included city tour offers insight into both the modern spirit and rich heritage of Cotonou. Visit the longest graffiti wall in Africa, an impressive open-air artistic project illustrating the history of the Kingdom of Dahomey through large-scale murals and vibrant street art. The artwork tells stories of kings, traditions, and important moments in Benin's cultural past while showcasing the creativity of local artists.

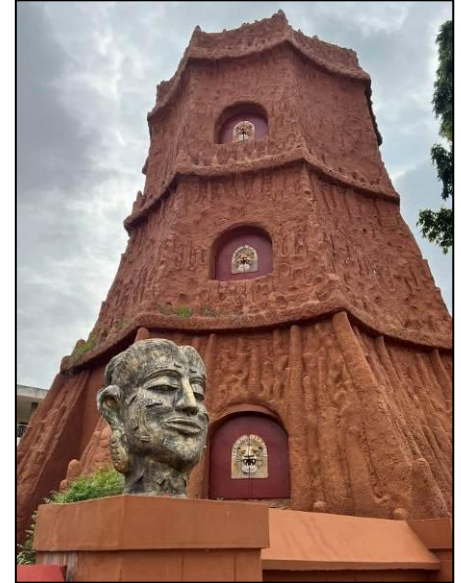
Continue to the striking Amazon Monument, one of the city's most important landmarks, dedicated to the legendary Dahomey Amazons – the famed all-female warriors of the former Dahomey Kingdom. Rising approximately 30 meters above the Esplanade des Amazones, the monument's bronze-clad structure creates a powerful symbol of courage, strength, and national pride. The surrounding plaza also provides excellent views of the coastline and modern city center.. Enjoy a welcome dinner tonight with your group.
Overnight at the MAISON ROUGE. (B,L,D)

DAY 4~ SATURDAY~ OCTOBER 16

COTONOU/PORTO NOVO ~DANCING MASKS

Today travel to Porto-Novo, the official capital of Benin and a city rich in history, culture, and Afro-Brazilian heritage. Originally known as Xogbonu, the settlement later became known as Porto-Novo, meaning "New Port," after Portuguese traders established it as an important coastal trading center during the 16th century. Over time, the city developed a unique identity shaped by local traditions as well as Brazilian influences brought by formerly enslaved people returning from South America.

Your city tour introduces you to several of Porto-Novo's most fascinating cultural landmarks. Visit the Ethnographic Museum, housed in a former royal palace, where exhibits of ceremonial objects, traditional masks, musical instruments, and tribal artwork provide insight into the customs and royal history of the region. The collection also offers a deeper understanding of the former Kingdom of Porto-Novo and the traditions that continue to influence Beninese culture today.



Continue to the remarkable Great Mosque of Porto-Novo, one of the city's most unusual architectural treasures. Constructed between the 1920s and 1930s by descendants of formerly enslaved Brazilians who returned to Benin, the building reflects a striking blend of Afro-Brazilian and colonial design. Its façade resembles a cathedral more than a traditional mosque, inspired by the baroque churches of Salvador de Bahia in Brazil. The distinctive structure stands as a symbol of the cultural exchanges that shaped Porto-Novo's identity and remains one



of the most unique religious buildings in West Africa.

Also included is a visit to a local art therapy center founded by photographer Louis Oke-Agbo. Created to support individuals with mental disabilities, the center encourages self-expression and social connection through painting, photography, music, and dance. The visit offers a meaningful opportunity to experience inspiring contemporary artwork created by the participants, with a gallery showcasing many of their colorful and expressive paintings available for viewing and purchase.

Next, witness the extraordinary Egun mask dances, a traditional Yoruba masquerade in which the masked figures are believed to represent and embody the spirits of deceased ancestors. The performers are initiated members of a secret society, and their identities remain strictly concealed throughout the ceremony.



Dressed in elaborate, brightly colored layered fabrics, they emerge from the forest and move in procession through the village pathways, accompanied by drumming and chanting. The performance is highly interactive and can feel intense, as the masked dancers may move suddenly toward spectators, especially those who come too close to the procession. Within the belief system, Egun are revered ancestral presences, and respect and distance are strongly observed during their appearance. The event is both a spiritual and communal ritual, intended to honor the ancestors, reinforce social values, and connect the living with the spirit world through performance, symbolism, and ceremony.

Overnight at the MAISON ROUGE. (B,L,D)

DAY 5~ SUNDAY~ OCTOBER 17

COTONOU/OUIDAH, AFRO BRAZILIAN CITY

Venture off to the historic coastal town of Ouidah, one of Benin's most culturally important destinations and a place deeply connected to the history of the former Kingdom of Dahomey and the transatlantic slave trade. During the 18th century, Ouidah became a major trading port and today remains a place where history, spirituality, and daily life are closely intertwined.

The town is known for its distinctive Afro-Brazilian architecture, introduced by formerly enslaved people who returned from Brazil and settled along the coast. Elegant colonial-style buildings, quiet streets, and lively local markets create a unique atmosphere, while the sound of traditional drums and the nearby Atlantic surf add to the town's distinctive character. Ouidah is also considered one of the spiritual centers of Vodun culture in West Africa, where traditional beliefs continue to play an important role in community life. Ouidah was conquered by

the Dahomey army during the XVIII century to become one of the main slave ports. Today the laid-back attitude of the locals blends in harmoniously with the thunder of the distant waves and the rhythm of the drums: a timeless atmosphere very well described by Bruce Chatwin in his book *The Vice-Roy of Ouidah*.



Included in your visit is the famous Python Temple, an important Vodun shrine dedicated to the sacred python, a symbol of protection and spiritual power. The temple houses live pythons cared for by priests and worshippers and offers insight into the rituals and beliefs associated with Vodun traditions. Located directly opposite the Catholic cathedral, the site beautifully illustrates the peaceful coexistence of traditional African spirituality and Christianity that defines much of Ouidah's cultural identity today. You will also visit the Portuguese Fort (*if open*), now a museum on the history of Ouidah and the slave trade.

Stop by the Villa Ajavon, a symbol of the urban, economic, and social transformation of Ouidah after the abolition of slavery. The city tour wraps up along the "slave road" to the beach, the point of "no return" where slaves used to board ships.



The lovely Casa del Papa Resort in Ouidah has 68 rooms equipped with modern amenities. All rooms have ensuite bathrooms with showers and complimentary toiletries. Other amenities include hairdryers and flat-screen TVs with satellite channels. This Quidah hotel provides complimentary wireless Internet access and free Wi-Fi in public areas. Recreational amenities at the hotel include an outdoor pool.

Overnight at the HOTEL CASA DEL PAPA. (B,L,D)

<https://www.casadelpapa.com/en>

Approximate driving time from Cotonou to Ouidah: 1 hour

DAY 6~ MONDAY~ OCTOBER 18

OUIDAH/ANEHO, TOGO

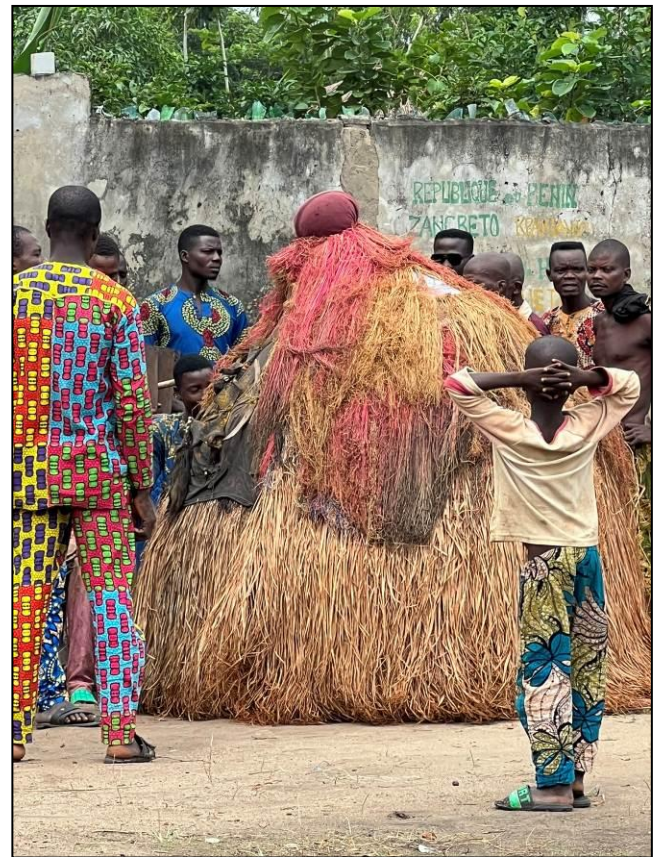
Today's journey takes you through the beautiful waterways and coastal landscapes of southern Benin as you explore the estuary of the Mono River by motorboat. Traveling through winding channels lined with mangroves and lush vegetation, you will discover a peaceful ecosystem rich in birdlife and traditional fishing communities. The excursion continues toward the remarkable "Bouche du Roi," where the river flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Here, the meeting of calm inland waters and rolling ocean waves creates a striking natural scene of shifting currents, golden sandbanks, tropical greenery, and sea spray carried by the coastal breeze.



Along the route, navigate across tranquil lagoons dotted with small islands and forested shores, offering a glimpse into rural life along the waterways. Stop in a small village where local families continue the traditional practice of salt harvesting, using methods passed down through generations. This visit provides insight into one of the region's long-standing economic activities and daily customs.

Enjoy lunch in the seaside town of Grand-Popo, a relaxed coastal settlement with a rich colonial past. During the colonial era, Grand-Popo marked the frontier between French Dahomey and German Togoland, and traces of that history can still be seen today in the old post office, customs buildings, and churches scattered throughout the town. The architecture reflects a blend of colonial influences and local character, while the nearby beaches and palm-lined shoreline create a laid-back coastal atmosphere.

In the afternoon, continue to a remote village to witness a traditional Zangbeto mask performance, one of the most fascinating cultural ceremonies in southern Benin. Covered entirely in layers of colored straw, the Zangbeto masks represent protective spirits associated with a secret society whose members remain anonymous to outsiders. During the ceremony, the masks spin rapidly and move rhythmically to the sound of drums, symbolizing spiritual cleansing and protection for the community. The performance is both ceremonial and theatrical, and local tradition attributes mystical powers to the Zangbeto spirits, making this an unforgettable cultural experience.



Later, cross the border into Togo at the Hilla Kodji / Sanvee Condji frontier post, continuing your West African journey.

Set along the tranquil shores of the Gulf of Guinea in the coastal town of Aneho, Miadjoe Beach Resort offers a peaceful seaside escape surrounded by golden sands and swaying palms. Its location provides easy access to the region's cultural landmarks, local villages, and scenic coastal landscapes, making it an excellent base for discovering the charm and traditions of southern Togo. The resort features a selection of comfortable accommodations designed with both relaxation and practicality in mind. Rooms are bright and airy, offering modern comforts such as air conditioning, private balconies, and beautiful ocean views. For relaxation and wellness, the property offers inviting leisure facilities including a swimming pool, spa services, and peaceful areas dedicated to rest and rejuvenation. Guests looking to stay active can take advantage of fitness sessions or unwind with yoga and meditation in the resort's serene surroundings. Dining at the resort is centered around its beachfront restaurant, where guests can savor a mix of local specialties and international dishes while enjoying views of the ocean. The bar provides a relaxed setting for cocktails, refreshments, and light bites throughout the day, and the culinary team is happy to accommodate a variety of dietary preferences. Complimentary Wi-Fi. Overnight at MIADJOE HOTEL, in Gold room category. (B,L,D) <https://www.miadjoebeachresort.com/> Approximate driving time from Ouidah to Aneho: 3 hour



DAY 7~ TUESDAY~ OCTOBER 19

ANEHO/LOME

Today is devoted to discovering the spiritual traditions and cultural heritage of Vodun, a belief system that continues to play an important role in daily life across southern Togo, Benin, and parts of Ghana. Far more than folklore, Vodun remains a living religion deeply connected to community, ancestry, healing, and the natural world.

Travel through rural villages where traditional adobe homes and sacred shrines reflect centuries-old customs that are still practiced today. In one of these communities, attend an authentic Vodun ceremony accompanied by the powerful sound of drums, chanting, and ritual dances. As the rhythm intensifies, some participants enter a trance believed to be caused by the presence of spirits taking possession of the dancers. During the ceremony, devotees may invoke divinities such as Sakpata, associated with the earth and healing, Heviosso, linked to thunder and justice, and Mami Wata, the revered water spirit connected with beauty, protection, and prosperity. The atmosphere is both deeply spiritual and emotionally powerful, offering a rare insight into traditions rarely experienced by outsiders.

Continue with a visit to a sacred forest, an important center of animist worship where local believers come daily to pray, seek guidance, and give thanks to the spirits. Hidden among the trees are shrines, statues, fetishes, and ritual objects covered with offerings of palm oil, alcohol, feathers, and other symbolic items left by worshippers. Wooden prayer stakes planted throughout the forest represent requests for health, fertility, protection, successful harvests, or family blessings. The site remains an active pilgrimage destination where spirituality is



woven into everyday life, providing a unique opportunity to better understand the enduring importance of traditional beliefs in West Africa.

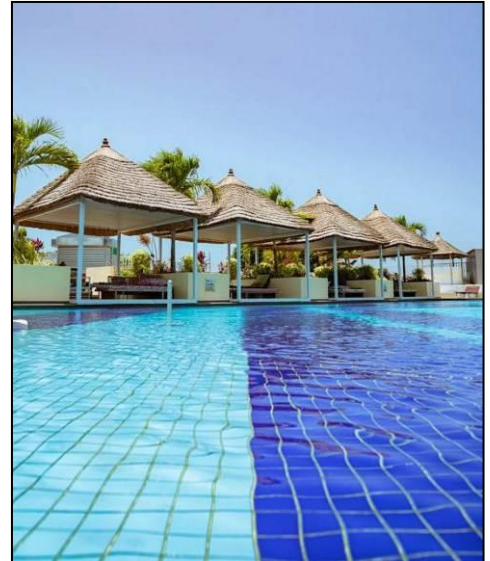
Arrive in Lomé later in the afternoon. Before reaching the hotel, stop at the famous Fetish Market, considered one of the largest traditional medicine and ritual markets in West Africa. The market displays an extraordinary collection of herbs, roots, animal carvings, ritual objects, charms, and ceremonial ingredients used by healers and spiritual practitioners. Beyond its unusual appearance, the market offers insight into the region's longstanding traditions of herbal medicine, spiritual protection, and ancestral practices that continue to coexist alongside modern life in Togo today.

The luxurious Hotel 2Fevrier is located in Place de l'Indépendance, Lomé's main square. All rooms are equipped with a flat-screen TV, minibar, air conditioning as well as tea and coffeemaker. All units have private en-suite bathrooms with free toiletries. The hotel has an outdoor pool and a gym. Guests can enjoy a buffet and à la carte breakfast served daily at the accommodation. The on-site restaurant offers African, Asian, Chinese, French and Mediterranean cuisine and is open to all guests. Free in-room Wi-Fi is available to all guests, along with a terrace and shopping on site.

Overnight at HOTEL 2 FEVRIER. (B,L,D)

<https://2fevrier.com/en/>

Approximate driving time from Aneho to Lome: 3 hours



DAY 8~ WEDNESDAY~ OCTOBER 20

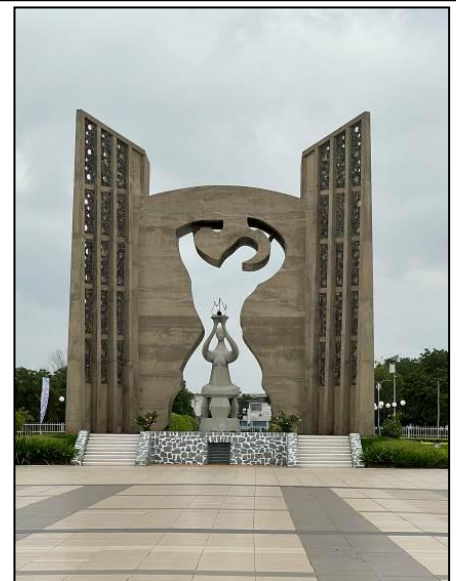
LOME

Lomé, the capital of Togo, is a vibrant coastal city with a unique historical background, having passed through German, British, and French colonial administration at different stages of its past. It is also home to a rich mix of communities, including descendants of Afro-Brazilian returnees, which contributes to its diverse cultural identity. Unusually, Lomé functions both as a national capital and a border city, giving it a dynamic, cross-border character shaped by trade, migration, and cultural exchange. This blend of influences is reflected in its architecture, cuisine, markets, and overall relaxed yet cosmopolitan atmosphere.



Your city tour includes the administrative district, where remnants of colonial-era architecture stand alongside modern buildings, offering insight into the city's layered history. A highlight is the Palais de Lomé, the former governor's residence, built in the late 19th century in elegant colonial style and set within expansive oceanfront gardens. Today, this restored landmark has been transformed into a contemporary arts and cultural space, showcasing exhibitions by Togolese and African artists. The surrounding parkland, stretching over 10 hectares, preserves a rich variety of tropical vegetation and century-old trees, creating a peaceful green oasis in the heart of the city while celebrating both natural and cultural heritage.

Continue to the lively central market, the commercial heartbeat of Lomé, where you will experience everyday local life surrounded by vibrant stalls filled with spices, textiles, fruits, and handcrafted goods. Here, you will meet a local chef who specializes in traditional cuisine and will guide you through the market as you select fresh ingredients from local traders, known as "market mamas." This interactive experience continues at a local venue, where under the chef's





guidance you will prepare and enjoy a traditional meal, offering a hands-on introduction to the flavors and culinary traditions of Togo.

Lomé is also an important hub for West African art and craftsmanship. You will visit a local tribal and contemporary art gallery, where traditional objects and modern creations are displayed side by side. The experience continues with a visit to a working artist's studio, where a young Togolese painter or sculptor shares insights into their creative process, inspirations, and techniques. Many Togolese artists have gained international recognition, exhibiting their work in Europe, the United States, and beyond, reflecting the country's growing presence on the global art scene.

After a full day of cultural discovery, return to your hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening in Lomé.

Overnight at HOTEL 2 FEVRIER. (B,L,D)

DAY 9 ~ THURSDAY~ OCTOBER 21 LOME/AKOSOMBO, GHANA

Cross the border into Ghana and head to Krobo, famous all around the

world for its beads. Here they are produced and used for cult and aesthetic purposes. You will visit a factory specialized in the production of those beads and even follow the process of making one! The craftsmen have now been making beads following the same long-lasting traditional technique for centuries. They use scrap glass and grind it into a fine powder. The glass powder is then meticulously made into patterns and placed into hand-made clay molds covered in kaolin. You will follow the whole process of production and learn to make your own bead.

Facing the Volta River, your 4-star hotel in Akosombo has rooms that are fitted with a seating area, a flat-screen TV with satellite channels, and a private bathroom with free toiletries and a hot tub. All rooms have air conditioning, and certain rooms include a terrace. Other amenities include an outdoor pool, a gym, and a spa, as well as tennis courts and a playground. Free Wi-Fi is offered.

Overnight at the ROYAL SENCHI RESORT. (B,L,D)

<https://www.theroyalsenchi.com/>

Approximate driving time from Lome to Akosombo: 5 hours

DAY 10 ~ FRIDAY~ OCTOBER 22 VOLTA RIVER

A relaxing day begins with a scenic boat excursion along the Volta River, offering a peaceful way to experience the lush tropical landscape and observe traditional fishing communities along the shoreline. As you glide through calm waters, you pass small riverside villages where daily life is closely connected to the river, with fishing, canoe building, and local trade forming the backbone of the community. The Volta River itself has a fascinating historical origin to its name, given by early Portuguese explorers who referred to it as a turning point in their coastal journeys — either marking the “bend” of the river's course or symbolically the place where ships would turn back after reaching their furthest exploration point.



Beyond its history, the river remains one of Ghana's most important natural features, feeding a vast lake system and supporting agriculture, fishing, and biodiversity throughout the region. The surrounding scenery is particularly striking, with dense greenery, palm-fringed banks, and a rich variety of birdlife enhancing the sense of tranquility throughout the journey.

In the afternoon, return to your hotel to unwind at leisure. Enjoy time by the swimming pool or take a quiet stroll through the gardens, which are set within the peaceful natural environment of the Volta Region.

Overnight at the ROYAL SENCHI RESORT. (B,L,D)

DAY 11~ SATURDAY~ OCTOBER 23

AKOSOMBO/KUMASI

Today you will cross a region of tropical forest and late in the morning reach Kumasi, the historical and spiritual capital of the old Ashanti Kingdom. The Ashanti people were one of the most powerful nations in Africa until the end of the 19th century when the British annexed Ashanti Country to their Gold Coast colony. The tribute paid today to the Asantehene (King) is the best evidence of their past splendor and strength. With nearly three million inhabitants, Kumasi is a sprawling city with a fantastic central market, one of the biggest in Africa.



Explore the Ashanti Cultural Centre: a rich collection of Ashanti artifacts housed in a wonderful reproduction of an Ashanti house. In the afternoon participate – if available – in a traditional Ashanti funeral, attended by mourners wearing beautifully red or black togas. They say “funerals”, but it means a “festive” celebration: the deceased in fact is believed to be still with his/her family and through this ceremony, he/she becomes an ancestor. Relatives and friends gather, socialize, and celebrate his/her memory. The chief arrives surrounded by his court under the shade of large umbrellas while drums give rhythm to the dancers whose intricate moves are highly symbolic.

If available, in the evening, the group will have the option of attending live music in town.

The Lancaster Kumasi City Hotel, formerly known as The Golden Tulip, is located near the Kumasi central market and the Manhyia Palace Museum. The property has a garden with a picnic area and sun terrace. Modest rooms provide free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, minifridges, a coffeemaker, some featuring private balconies. Other amenities include an outdoor pool with a bar, a fitness center, and tennis courts.

Overnight at the LANCASTER KUMASI CITY HOTEL, in deluxe rooms. (B,L,D)

<https://lancasterkumasicity.com/>

Approximate driving time from Akosombo to Kumasi: 7 hours



DAY 12 ~ SUNDAY ~ OCTOBER 24

KUMASI ~ GOLDEN KINGDOM

In the morning, head to the Royal Palace Museum hosting a unique collection of gold jewels worn by the Ashanti court.

A visit to Kumasi is not complete without experiencing the living heritage of the Ashanti Kingdom and, when possible, meeting one of its traditional leaders. You will be welcomed into the courtyard of a respected Ashanti chief, an important figure who continues to play a key role in community leadership and cultural preservation in modern Ghana. Dressed in richly woven traditional cloth and adorned with historic gold ornaments – symbols of status and authority – the chief receives visitors seated beneath a ceremonial umbrella, a powerful emblem of chieftaincy.

During the encounter, he offers insight into the responsibilities of traditional leadership today and the enduring relevance of Ashanti customs within contemporary society.

Your visit coincides with the Ashanti traditional calendar, where you may witness the Akwasidae Festival, one of the most important ceremonial events held at the Royal Palace in Kumasi. Celebrated every six weeks, it marks the sacred cycle of the Akan calendar and brings together royalty, chiefs, and community members in a vibrant display of heritage. The King appears in full regalia, seated beneath a richly decorated umbrella



and surrounded by attendants, linguists, and court officials holding golden insignia of power. The ceremony unfolds with a grand procession of drummers, horn players, royal guards, storytellers, and priests, all contributing to a powerful atmosphere of pageantry and symbolism. The Queen Mother also plays a central role, accompanied by her entourage, reinforcing the importance of lineage and tradition. This remarkable gathering offers a rare opportunity to witness one of West Africa's most enduring and visually striking royal cultures.

The experience continues with visits to villages around Kumasi, where craftsmanship is passed down through generations. These communities are renowned for producing the famous Kente cloth, handwoven in vibrant geometric patterns that each carry symbolic meaning, as well as Adinkra textiles, traditionally stamped with meaningful symbols representing values, wisdom, and proverbs. You may also observe artisans working on other forms of craftsmanship, including carved wooden stools used by family elders as symbols of authority, continuity, and respect within the household and community.

Overnight at the LANCASTER KUMASI CITY HOTEL. (B,L,D)

DAY 13 ~ MONDAY ~ OCTOBER 25

KUMASI/ELMINA

Drive to Elmina on the coast of Ghana, where you will have the opportunity to visit many castles and dungeons, relics of the ancient gold, ivory, and slave trades. Elmina is the oldest European building in sub-Saharan Africa and links the history of Africa to world history. In 1482 Christopher Columbus and Bartolomeo Diaz arrived with ten caravels to build a castle under Portuguese authority. The story of Elmina began with the construction of the castle and port by European traders around which the village grew. There has been a connection between Europeans and Americans here for more than five centuries, long before the start of colonial rule. The Castle of Sao Jorge da Mina is rich in history; it has subsequently been ruled by Portugal, Holland, the United Kingdom, and now Ghana. The castle has been used as a warehouse to trade gold, ivory, and eventually slaves. What you'll visit today is the outcome of successive extensions and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Facing the castle and the ocean is a unique fishing harbor with hundreds of large colorful canoes that every day defy the waves and currents. In the old town with its vivid atmosphere discover the Posuban, shrines of the "Asafo companies": ancient warriors' companies, still existing, and pouring libations onto statues. The atmosphere in the ancient alleys harkens back to a time when Elmina was a busy Atlantic trade citadel.



Set along Ghana's Atlantic coastline near the historic town of Elmina, Anomansa Beach Resort provides a relaxed seaside retreat and a convenient base for exploring the Central Region's rich cultural heritage. Surrounded by palm trees and ocean breezes, the resort is close to key attractions such as Elmina

Castle and the Java Museum. Guestrooms are comfortable and simply appointed, many featuring private balconies with ocean views. Rooms include air conditioning, complimentary Wi-Fi, televisions, mini refrigerators, and private bathrooms, while larger suite options are available for families and small groups. Dining takes place at the open-air beachfront restaurant, serving local specialties and international cuisine with sweeping sea views. Guests may also enjoy the outdoor swimming pool, beach access, and leisure activities such as volleyball and table tennis, all within a peaceful coastal setting.

Overnight at the ANOMANSA BEACH RESORT. (B,L,D)

<https://anomansabeachresort.com/>

Approximate driving time from Kumasi to Elmina: 5 hours

DAY 14 ~ TUESDAY ~ OCTOBER 26

KAKUM NATIONAL PARK/CAPE COAST CASTLE/ACCRA

A few miles north of the coast, in the middle of a rainforest, discover the Kakum National Park. Observe the forest from above as Kakum has a canopy walk hung high up in the trees. The Kakum canopy walkway is the longest and highest rope bridge in the world. At this height, instead of revealing their trunks, the trees offer a breath-taking view of their canopies.



Drive back to the coast and visit Cape Coast Castle, built by the Swedish in 1653. From 1657 to 1664 it changed hands many times as it was conquered by the Danes, the Dutch, the Fanti (*a local tribe*), the Swedes and finally the British. Today, it hosts a museum on the history of the slave trade.

Set amidst landscaped gardens, this premier 5-star hotel is Accra's best and is located adjacent to Ghana's most popular La Pleasure Beach, with a private beach of its own. The hotel offers a modern Spa, a well-equipped gym, a pool, a tennis court, and outdoor running space. Your room, one of 164 well-appointed rooms and suites, enjoys all amenities such as a hairdryer, coffee-making facility, minibar, high-speed internet, bathrobe, and slippers, and has an en-suite bathroom and 40" flat screen LED TV. There are several bars and restaurants, one overlooking the pool, another the lagoon or the Atlantic Ocean, and the Akwaaba Buffet Restaurant. You're sure to enjoy this lovely hotel during your stay in Accra.

Overnight at the LABADI BEACH HOTEL. (B,L,D)

<https://labadibeachhotelgh.com/>

Approximate driving time from Elmina to Accra: 5 hours



DAY 15 ~ WEDNESDAY ~ OCTOBER 27

ACCRA ~ CITY TOUR

Accra, Ghana's capital, has managed to preserve its unique charm even as it has rapidly modernized. Amidst its contemporary buildings and broad avenues, the city's administrative district, with its stately 19th-century villas, still reflects its legacy as one of Africa's most prosperous colonial centers. This bustling city blends rich history with modern

energy, making it the perfect destination for an unforgettable city tour. Get ready to explore Accra's vibrant streets, historic landmarks, and cultural treasures that offer a deep dive into the soul of Ghana.



Your tour begins at the iconic Independence Square, also known as Black Star Square. As you step into this monumental space, you'll be greeted by the towering Black Star Gate, a symbol of Ghana's hard-won freedom from colonial rule. Take a moment to appreciate the panoramic view of the square, which hosts national events and celebrations. Don't miss the Eternal Flame of African Liberation, lit by Kwame Nkrumah himself in 1961, signifying the undying spirit of freedom across the continent.

Next, head to the nearby Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, a must-visit on any Accra city tour. This serene park honors Ghana's first president and the father of African independence. Wander through the lush gardens and pay your respects at the mausoleum where Nkrumah and his wife are laid to rest. The park's museum showcases a fascinating collection of photographs, personal belongings, and documents that offer insight into Nkrumah's life and legacy.

A visit to the Du Bois Centre this afternoon offers an

opportunity to honor the legacy of the renowned scholar and civil rights activist, W.E.B. Du Bois. This center includes a museum that showcases memorabilia and Du Bois's personal library, providing a deep dive into his life and intellectual contributions. The Open-air Theatre, located on the grounds, hosts intellectual seminars, lectures, workshops, and cultural events, fostering an environment of learning and exchange. Established in 1985 by the Ghanaian government, the Du Bois Centre serves as a place for reflection on the principles of Pan-Africanism and a space to appreciate the profound impact of Dr. Du Bois's work. It stands as a tribute to his efforts to promote unity, equality, and social justice for people of African descent worldwide. The Centre encourages visitors to engage with Du Bois's legacy and continue discussions about the ongoing relevance of his ideals in the modern world.



After soaking in the history, it's time for a culinary adventure. Head to one of Accra's popular local eateries, like Buka, where you can savor authentic Ghanaian dishes. Try a plate of jollof rice, waakye, or banku with tilapia, and wash it down with a refreshing glass of fresh coconut water or sobolo, a hibiscus drink. The vibrant flavors and warm hospitality will leave you feeling recharged for the rest of your tour.

In the afternoon, explore the historic Jamestown district of Accra, one of the city's oldest neighborhoods and home to the Ga people. Set along the Atlantic coastline, this vibrant area offers a striking contrast between tradition and modern urban life, where everyday activities unfold in a lively, community-centered environment. Narrow streets, colonial-era landmarks, fishing boats, and bustling local markets create the feeling of a coastal village embedded within a growing capital city. Life here follows its own rhythm, shaped by the sea, heritage, and long-standing local customs that differ markedly from the nearby business districts only a short distance away.





Continue to a fascinating local workshop known for creating Ghana's famous "fantasy coffins," an extraordinary form of functional art unique to the Ga tradition. These handcrafted coffins are designed to reflect the passions, identity, or profession of the deceased, ranging from animals and fish to cars, airplanes, fruits, and other imaginative forms. Each piece is carefully carved and painted by skilled artisans, transforming cultural symbolism and personal storytelling into vibrant works of art. What began as a local tradition in Accra has gained international recognition, with these remarkable creations now featured in museums and private collections around the world as iconic examples of contemporary African art and craftsmanship.

Tonight, enjoy a rare gastronomic experience with award-winning chef Fatmata Binta, creator of the acclaimed Dine on a

Mat. In an intimate setting inspired by Fulani nomadic traditions, you are invited to sit on beautifully woven mats, and share an elegant tasting menu crafted from indigenous West African ingredients. Each course is accompanied by stories of heritage, migration and community, offering a refined yet deeply authentic immersion into contemporary African cuisine. A warm, minimalist atmosphere, ritual tea, and Chef Binta's signature hospitality make this experience one of Ghana's most meaningful culinary highlights. There is also a corner table with normal sitting for people who are not able to sit on the mat.

Overnight at the LABADI BEACH HOTEL. (B,L,D)

DAY 16 ~ THURSDAY ~ OCTOBER 28

GHANA/USA

Your trip in West Africa concludes with a drop-off at the airport for your flight home, arriving the same day. (Meals Aloft)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BENIN, TOGO & GHANA

Participants:

- Must be able to climb in and out of vehicles, motorboats, and small local boats unassisted. Participants should be willing to rotate seats throughout the journey.
- Must be able to tolerate long overland drives, some lasting up to seven hours, on roads that may be uneven, congested, or affected by potholes and varying road conditions.
- Must be able to walk moderate distances through towns, villages, markets, museums, historical sites, and cultural venues. Walking surfaces may include uneven pavement, dirt roads, sand, forest paths, stairs, and occasional inclines.
- Must be comfortable boarding and disembarking motorboats for excursions on Lake Nokwe, the Mono River estuary, and the Volta River. Some docks and landing areas may be basic.
- Must be able to cross the suspended canopy walkway at Kakum National Park. The walkway is elevated high above the forest floor and may not be suitable for those uncomfortable with heights.
- Must be comfortable visiting traditional villages, sacred forests, Vodun shrines, ceremonial sites, and local communities where facilities may be limited and conditions differ significantly from those at home.
- Should be in generally good health and prepared to travel in regions where advanced medical facilities may not be immediately available.



In General, This Trip Requires:

- Flexibility and good humor – travel in West Africa can be unpredictable, and schedules may occasionally be adjusted due to local conditions, ceremonies, border formalities, weather, or road conditions.
- A spirit of adventure and curiosity. This journey emphasizes cultural immersion, living traditions, history, spirituality, art, music, and community life.
- An interest in engaging respectfully with cultures and belief systems that may be unfamiliar, including Vodun ceremonies, mask performances, sacred forests, ancestral traditions, and Ashanti royal customs.
- Patience with infrastructure that is often more modest than in North America or Europe. While accommodations are comfortable and often excellent, roads, public facilities, and transportation standards may vary.
- An appreciation for warm tropical weather. October is generally warm throughout Benin, Togo, and Ghana, with daytime temperatures commonly ranging from the upper 70s to low 90s Fahrenheit. Humidity can be high, particularly along the coast, and occasional rain showers are possible.
- Respect for local customs regarding photography, dress, religious sites, and ceremonial events. Your guide will advise you when special protocols apply.
- An understanding that traditional ceremonies, festivals, funerals, mask dances, and cultural events operate according to local customs and schedules. While every effort is made to include them, some events remain subject to local availability.
- A willingness to embrace a destination where some of the most rewarding experiences come through unexpected encounters, meaningful cultural exchanges, and opportunities to step outside your comfort zone.

Air Schedules

- The cost of your program does not include international airfare. If you require assistance, please contact Classic Escapes at 718-280-5002 and we will happily provide air quotations for you.
- You may make your own international air arrangements, but please ensure that you arrive and depart on the correct dates. Contact your Journey Manager at Classic Escapes to verify your flight schedule and confirm there have been no changes to the program.
- The program begins in Cotonou, Benin, and concludes in Accra, Ghana.

Upon registration, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with reissuing the ticket.

INCLUSIONS

- Services of English-speaking guide throughout the tour.
- Transfers in air-conditioned minibus or motorcoach.
- Welcome and farewell dinner with wine and beer. Rest of the meals as specified on itinerary.
- All tours/ excursions as specified on the program.
- Gratuities to Council of Philadelphia leader will accompany the group with a minimum of 10 travelers.
- Mineral water in the bus/car during visits and at meals.
- Entrance fees to parks, protected areas, villages and cultural sites.
- Complimentary baggage tags and water bottle.
- Complimentary evacuation insurance.

EXCLUSIONS

- Round trip air transportation between USA and West Africa. If you require assistance with air arrangements, contact Classic Escapes.
- Gratuities to drivers/guides and other conveyance attendants. *Gratuities should only be given as a reward for exceptional service and is at your discretion. We estimate \$15 per person/per day for the specialist guide. \$10 per person/per day for the driver. \$5 per person for each arrival and departure transfer from the airport/ hotel. These are daily per service estimates and an exact tipping chart will be detailed on your final itinerary.*
- Fees for personal photos and videos.
- Fee for optional music events.
- Passport and visa fees and service charges for obtaining visas. Currently, US citizens require a visa for traveling to Benin, Togo, and Ghana.
- Excess baggage charges levied by airlines.
- Meals and beverages, other than those specified.
- Mineral water and drinks at meals
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature.
- Personal and baggage insurance.
- Cost for anything not specifically mentioned in the listing above.

Please Note That The Itinerary Sequence Is Correct At The Time Of Writing But Is Subject To Change.



YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

INCLUDING: COTONOU, LAKE NOKWE, PORTO NOVO, OUIDAH IN BENIN; ANEHO, LOME, IN TOGO; AKOSOMBO, KUMASI, ELMINA & ACCRA IN GHANA.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA & PARTNERS

ESCORTED BY: A COMMONWEALTH CLUB WORLD AFFAIRS HOST

DATES: OCTOBER 13 TO 28, 2027

COSTS: PER PERSON, BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	MAIN PROGRAM BASED ON 10 TRAVELERS
LAND ONLY	\$11,995 PER PERSON
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT, ADDITIONAL*	\$3,995 PER PERSON ADDITIONAL

***SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** RATES ARE VALID FOR THE FIRST TWO SINGLE ROOMS BOOKED. IF MORE THAN TWO SINGLE ROOMS, AN ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENT WILL APPLY. SINGLES ARE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME/FIRST SERVE BASIS.

INTERNATIONAL AIR ARRANGEMENTS: The cost of your program does not include international airfare. If you require assistance, please contact Classic Escapes at 718-280-5002 and we will happily provide air quotes to you. You may make your own international air arrangements, but please ensure you arrive/depart on the correct dates. Contact your Journey Manager at Classic Escapes to verify the dates to ensure there are no errors. **The start city for this program is Cotonou, Benin, and departure is Accra, Ghana.**



CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL:

The purchase of your travel booking constitutes a contractual agreement between the traveler(s), customer(s), and/or purchaser(s) (collectively as "**You**" and "**Traveler**"), and Classic Escapes ("**Classic Escapes**", "**We**", "**Us**") pursuant to the following terms and conditions ("**Terms**", "**Agreement**"):

REGISTRATION & PAYMENTS

HOW TO BOOK: Fill out and sign the enclosed reservation form and send it, along with the relevant deposit as shown below, to: CLASSIC ESCAPES, 191 W Poplar Street, Floral Park, NY 11001. Upon receipt of your signed reservation form and deposit, we will, subject to availability, reserve your spot on the tour. You may consider your booking confirmed when you receive a confirmation notice and invoice from us.

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT: You will be required to pay the following per person deposit when booking. These amounts are:

- \$2,400 for the trip

All deposits are subject to the Cancellation policy herein. Final payment is required no less than 95 days prior to departure (October 13, 2026) unless otherwise stated. Some airfares or services must be paid in full at the time of booking. Payments may be made by check or with a credit card (American Express, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.) Conditioned on receipt of final payment in full, all final documents and air tickets will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure.

CREDIT CARD PROCESSING FEE: Payments made via credit card will incur a non-refundable processing fee of 5%. This fee applies to both deposits and final payments and will be added to the total trip cost. By choosing to pay via credit card, you agree to this additional charge. Alternative payment methods, such as bank transfers or checks, are available to avoid this fee.

CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS: If for any reason, any travel service provider is unable to provide the services for which you have contracted, your remedy lies against the provider, and not against Classic Escapes, and in the event that payment has been made to Classic Escapes by credit card, you agree that you will not seek to chargeback your payment to Classic Escapes. If the credit card is passed through to the travel service provider and you seek to chargeback your payment from the provider, you agree to be held liable and indemnify Classic Escapes against this chargeback from the provider, including without limitation any air debit memos charged to Classic Escapes. If the credit card is declined, you guarantee that you will settle any amounts owing to Classic Escapes via money order or cash immediately. Except in cases of fraud, you agree not to file any dispute with your bank or credit card company to avoid or violate any booking terms and conditions of Classic Escapes or its suppliers, including cancellations or changes of itinerary or arrangements for reasons beyond the control of Classic Escapes or its suppliers. If you attempt to chargeback, reverse, or recollect a previously authorized trip payment, Classic Escapes reserves the right to collect all additional costs, fees and expenses associated with such chargeback, reversal, or recollection, including, without limitation, attorney fees.

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Prices are subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Prices are not subject to increase after you make full payment, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. By signing the reservation form, you expressly acknowledge your acceptance of these conditions (i.e., increases before full payment and increases attributable to government-imposed taxes or fees after full payment will be your responsibility) applicable to your purchase.

RATES: Rates are based on the minimum number of guests outlined in this document, plus airfare costs, currency exchange rates and other factors and are subject to change. Though it is rare for Classic Escapes to make a price adjustment after promotion of an itinerary, we do reserve the right to assess a surcharge if the minimum is not met, or if increases are forced upon us by airlines or other partners or because of changes in currency exchange rates.

ADDITIONAL FEES: Additional taxes and surcharges that cannot be pre-collected may be charged locally. Cost of passport and visa fees and service charges for obtaining visa fees; excess baggage charges levied by airlines; laundry and other items of a personal nature; optional travel insurance policy(s); or any other costs incurred that cannot be pre-collected are NOT included and are the sole responsibility of the Traveler.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: The quoted rate is valid for the first two single rooms booked and on a first-come, first-served basis. If more than two single rooms are needed, an additional supplement may apply. Single accommodations are not guaranteed but will be provided at additional cost if available (see 'Your Journey at a Glance' section for the cost.) The single room supplement pays for privacy, not better accommodations. For passengers who are traveling alone and wish to share a room with another tour member, we will do our best to provide a roommate. However, if this is not possible, you will be required to pay the single room supplement prior to your departure from the USA.

GRATUITIES, ENTRANCE FEES & TAXES: Gratuities for baggage handling, service charges and taxes imposed by hotels, and entrance fees to all points of interest as outlined in the itinerary are included in the final cost. U.S. and foreign airport taxes are included in air costs. Tips to drivers and specialist guide(s) are **not** included and are the sole responsibility of the Traveler.

CANCELLATIONS, DEVIATIONS & CHANGES

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We recommend travel insurance. Travel insurance can provide financial reimbursement should the unexpected occur.

CANCELLATION: Please be aware that most travel bookings are non-refundable and cancelled bookings will incur charges. These charges can be up to 100% of the cost of the booking, regardless of whether travel has commenced. Where we incur any liability for a cancellation fee or charge for any booking that you cancel, you agree to indemnify us for the amount of that fee or charge. Cancellations are only effective upon receipt of written notification. The following per-person fees are applicable:

- Up to 96 days prior to departure (July 9, 2027), \$300 per person administrative fee, plus \$500 non-refundable deposits given to suppliers.
- 95 days to 76 days prior to departure (July 10 to July 29 2027), deposit is forfeited.
- 75 days to 60 days prior to departure (July 30 to August 14, 2027), 25% refund is possible.
- 59 days or less prior to departure (August 15, 2027), no refund is possible.

Certain services may be non-refundable from the time of booking and may be subject to separate supplier-imposed penalties. These cancellation fees are also in addition to any fees imposed by airlines.

REFUNDS: While Classic Escapes uses its best endeavors to ensure that all anticipated accommodation is available as planned, there is no claim of any nature whatsoever against Classic Escapes for a refund, in whole or in part, if any accommodation or excursion is unavailable and a reasonable alternative is not found, or if the Traveler is unable to use any service provided in the itinerary.

CHANGES: Once your tour is reserved, changes to the itinerary are possible subject to the availability of air or land space at the time of your request. Should there be any change fees imposed by any airlines or ground operators, or additional costs incurred due to the availability of any space, these costs will be invoiced to you and you will be responsible for payment thereof. All changes are subject to availability and supplier approval.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make additional travel plans, including specially arranged pre- or post-tour extensions different than those offered in conjunction with your tour, a service charge of \$150 per person (over and above the cost of the services required) will be assessed.

DOCUMENTS

PASSPORTS: All individuals departing from the United States of America must be in possession of a valid passport. Please check that your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond your intended return date. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have valid travel documentation, including but not limited to passports and visas, which meet the requirements of immigration and other government authorities at every destination. You are responsible for confirming with the United States Department of State or the representative government agency of the country to which you are traveling to confirm the requirements for visas and/or other requirements for admission to your destination. Any fines, penalties, payments, or expenditures incurred as a result of such documents not meeting the requirements of those authorities will be your sole responsibility.

REAL ID: Beginning May 7, 2025, if you plan to use your state-issued ID or license to fly within the U.S., it is your responsibility to make sure it is REAL ID compliant. If you are not sure if your ID complies, please check with your local state Department of Motor Vehicles or visit www.tsa.gov/real-id.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: It is the responsibility of each Traveler to obtain and carry a valid passport, visa(s), and all other documents required by applicable government regulations.

ENTRY AUTHORIZATIONS: Certain destinations require electronic travel authorizations, visa waivers, transit authorizations, or pre-registration prior to departure. These requirements may apply even if a traditional visa is not required. It is the Traveler's responsibility to determine and obtain all required entry authorizations prior to travel. Failure to secure proper documentation may result in denied boarding or denied entry, for which Classic Escapes assumes no responsibility.

IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: When traveling domestically or internationally, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) advise that everyone carry acceptable identification in order to board a flight. Acceptable identification can be found at <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/acceptable-ids>. The name, date of birth, and gender that appear on the identification document must exactly match the same data listed on airline ticket(s) and booking records. You acknowledge that failure to strictly comply with these requirements may result in denied boarding or undue delay at an airport security checkpoint, causing the Traveler to miss flight(s) and subsequent scheduled travel arrangements.

Travel documents include, without limitation, airline tickets, hotel vouchers, tour vouchers, or any other document (whether in electronic form or otherwise) used to confirm an arrangement with a service provider. Travel documents may be subject to certain conditions and/or restrictions including, but not limited to, being non-refundable, non-date-changeable, and subject to cancellation or amendment fees. Travel documents are non-transferable. All airline tickets must be issued in the name of the passport or government-issued photo identification holder. An incorrect name on a booking may result in cancellation or inability to use that booking. Any errors in names, dates, or timings on your documentation will be your responsibility if we are not advised at the time of booking. Please reconfirm your flights at least 24 hours prior to departure.

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION: Upon receipt of your registration and deposit, we will send you an electronic pre-departure packet containing all the information you need to prepare for your tour, including the complete itinerary, packing checklist, required documents, insurance information, etc.

FINAL DOCUMENTS: Electronic final documents and air e-tickets will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure, provided all monies have been paid in full.

TRANSPORTATION

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Your program does not include international airfare. If you require assistance, contact Classic Escapes.

FREQUENT FLYER MILEAGE: Check on the airline's website to enquire who their partners are. Obtain frequent flyer mileage on any of these carriers. Present your frequent flyer card for all flight check-ins and keep the boarding passes until you receive a statement with the mileage credit.

TRANSFERS: Roundtrip airport transfers are included in the tour for guests arriving on group flights. If travelers make their own air arrangements, they will be subject to extra transfer fees.

FLIGHT CONFIRMATION: We strongly suggest that you reconfirm exact flight times with the carrier prior to departure. Air travelers are required to check in at least 2 hours prior to departure time for domestic flights and 3 hours for international flights and must report to the gate at least 30 minutes prior to departure time. Failure to comply may result in the loss of the seat to another passenger.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Federal law prohibits passengers from bringing hazardous materials on the aircraft. Federal law forbids the carriage of hazardous materials aboard aircraft in the passenger's luggage or on the passenger's person. A violation can result in five years' imprisonment and penalties of \$250,000 or more (49 U.S.C. 5124). Hazardous materials include explosives, compressed gases, flammable liquids and solids, oxidizers, poisons, corrosives, and radioactive materials. Examples: Paints, lighter fluid, fireworks, tear gases, oxygen bottles, and radiopharmaceuticals. There are special exceptions for small quantities (up to 70 ounces total) of medicinal and toilet articles carried in the passenger's luggage and certain smoking materials carried on the passenger's person. For further information, each passenger should contact the relevant airline representative(s) on their itinerary. Restrictions on hazardous materials are listed <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items>.

INSECTICIDE NOTICE: Some countries require insecticide spraying of aircraft prior to a flight or while you are on the aircraft. We recommend that you refer to the Department of Transportation's list of airports in countries that require airlines to treat the passenger cabin with insecticides prior to the flight or while on the aircraft available at <https://www.dot.gov/office-policy/aviation-policy/aircraft-disinsection-requirements>.

BAGGAGE & FEES: Additional fees for baggage may apply. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding its checked baggage policies. On average, international flights from the USA allow one piece of checked luggage, not exceeding 50 pounds, plus a carry-on piece not exceeding 15 pounds; however, we always recommend that you check your airline's policy just before departure, as luggage limitations are always subject to change. There may also be luggage and weight restrictions for your destination and that information will be forwarded to you with your pre-departure material and also listed on your final documents.

AIRLINE CLAUSE: The airlines concerned are not to be held liable for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyance. The passengers' tickets in use by the airline or by other carriers concerned when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passengers.

DELAYS: We cannot be held liable for any delays or additional costs incurred as a result of airlines not running to schedule. Any additional land or air fees imposed on account of airline delays will be borne by the traveler.

TRIP DETAILS

ACCOMMODATIONS: Accommodations will vary by destination and program design. Properties are selected based on comfort, location, and suitability for the experience. Accommodations listed in an itinerary are correct at the time of publication but may be substituted on rare occasions with comparable alternatives of equal standard if necessary.

MEALS: All meals as specified in the itinerary. Please notify us if you have special dietary needs or requests, and we will do our best to accommodate.

WATER: Drinking water standards vary by destination. Travelers are advised to follow local guidance and recommendations provided by guides, accommodations, or local authorities regarding potable water. In destinations where tap water is not recommended, bottled and/or filtered water should be used for drinking and brushing teeth. When included as part of the program, safe drinking water will be provided to travelers in vehicles and during scheduled meals.

PHOTOGRAPHY: The Company reserves the right without further notice to make use of any photograph or video taken on the tour by our photographers without payment or permission. We guarantee that no photographs of a compromising nature will be used.

GUIDES: If one of Classic Escapes' guides are unable to take a trip due to circumstances out of our control (i.e., illness, etc.), we reserve the right to substitute with another guide.

TOUR ITINERARY: To the best of our knowledge the itinerary is correct at the time of printing. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or changes that may occur after printing.

HEALTH AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: You are responsible for ensuring that you meet all health requirements applicable to your destination(s), including recommended or required immunizations, health screenings, and any entry documentation mandated by governmental authorities, airlines, or local providers at the time of travel. Health regulations, public health advisories, and entry requirements may change at any time without notice. It is your responsibility to monitor official government, airline, and destination communications prior to departure and to comply with all applicable regulations. Carriers and local authorities may impose health-related measures as a condition of travel or entry, including but not limited to testing, screening, vaccination verification, quarantine, or other public health controls. Denied boarding, denied entry, mandatory quarantine, or additional costs resulting from such measures are the sole responsibility of the Traveler.

Classic Escapes is not responsible for providing medical advice or for changes in health regulations implemented by governments, airlines, or local authorities. Participation in travel involves inherent risks, including but not limited to exposure to illness, injury, political instability, or unforeseen events. By booking travel with Classic Escapes, you voluntarily assume such risks.

For current travel and health information, please consult:

U.S. Department of State: <https://travel.state.gov>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>

TRAVEL INSURANCE: For your protection, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation and travel accident insurance. However, no representation or description of the insurance made by Classic Escapes to you constitutes a binding assurance or promise about the insurance. Classic Escapes is not an insurance company and has no responsibility for the submission, payment, or adjustment of any insurance claims. Any insurance claims that may fall under the relevant travel insurance policy must be submitted to the insurance company identified in the policy. We recommend the following service – please visit the website to enroll: <http://www.travelguard.com/classicescapes/>. Any questions about what travel insurance does or does not cover should be addressed directly to the travel insurance company, Travel Guard at 1-866-385-4839 and reference ARC #71298. If you decline insurance coverage, you will personally assume full responsibility for any financial loss associated with your travel arrangements, and you could lose your travel investment and/or have to pay more money to correct the situation. **THE PURCHASE OF TRAVEL INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ON ALL TRIPS.**

EMERGENCY EVACUATION COVERAGE: For the convenience of our travelers, Classic Escapes provides a complimentary Medical Insurance Plan during your trip via Travel Guard Group, Inc. This includes:

- Emergency evacuation insurance up to \$100,000.
- Up to \$25,000 medical expense and up to \$500 dental expense coverage subject to the terms and limitations of the insurance policy.
- 24-hour worldwide travel and medical assistance.

Medical Plan (926801)

Please click here to view complete coverage of details. [Please click here to view the details of the coverage.](#)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

TOUR OPERATOR: Classic Escapes acts as a tour operator/travel agent only. Classic Escapes does not own, operate, manage, or control any independent suppliers of services and is not liable for their acts or omissions. Classic Escapes' obligations to you are to make travel bookings on your behalf and to arrange relevant contracts between you and other travel service providers. We have no responsibility for these services, nor do we have the authority to make any warranty or representation regarding their standard. Requests cannot be guaranteed. All bookings are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by these travel service providers. You understand that your legal recourse is against the specific provider, not Classic Escapes. Conditions can change rapidly in a country at any time. It is your responsibility to check the USA Government Travel advisories for your intended destination at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMPANY: We always do our best to make sure your travel arrangements are satisfactory. However, Classic Escapes and its employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns do not own or operate any third-party entity that provides goods and services for your travel, including without limitation lodging facilities, airline, vessel, motorcoach, or other transportation companies, local ground operators, providers, food service providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors and are in no way affiliated to Classic Escapes. We are not liable for any delays or additional costs incurred by the Traveler as a result of any actions or occurrences by any of the foregoing third party entities.

LIABILITY: Classic Escapes is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any travel service provider or of any third party.

Because Classic Escapes does not have the right to control the operations of such travel service provider or any third party, you agree that Classic Escapes is not liable for any personal injury or property damage which may arise out of these services. Classic Escapes hereby disclaims any liability whether based on contract, tort, strict liability or otherwise, including without limitation liability for any direct, punitive, special consequential, incidental or indirect damages, in connection with the goods or services provided by any supplier booking through Classic Escapes, including without limitation liability for any act, error, omission, injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be incurred through the fault, negligence, willful acts, omissions or otherwise of such travel service provider or any third party, or their respective employees, agents, servants, or representatives, including, without limitation, their failure to deliver or their partial or inadequate delivery of services, their cancellation and refund policies, fuel increases, bankruptcy or cessation of operations and other matters outside of Classic Escapes' control, and you hereby exonerate Classic Escapes from any liability with respect to the same.

FORCE MAJEURE: Classic Escapes will not be in breach of these terms and conditions or otherwise be liable to you, for any failure or delay in performing an obligation under this Agreement that is due to any of the following causes, to the extent beyond its reasonable control: acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist act, illness, disease, epidemic, pandemic, quarantine, civil commotion, breakdown of communication facilities, including web host and internet service provider, breakdown or malfunction of equipment, destruction of or serious damage to facilities, natural catastrophes including, but not limited to extreme weather events, floods and volcanic eruptions, governmental acts or omissions, changes in laws or regulations, national strikes, fire, explosion, generalized lack of availability of raw materials or energy, and any other unforeseen circumstance which is beyond the control of Classic Escapes. THE PURCHASE OF TRAVEL INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ON ALL TRIPS.

REFUSAL OF SERVICE: Service providers reserve the right to refuse service to travelers at their sole discretion, including, without limitation, if the traveler: (i) lacks proper documentation for the country of destination; (ii) has a contagious disease; (iii) is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or narcotics; and/or (iv) manifests disruptive and/or unruly behavior or otherwise poses a risk to the safety, health, or comfort of others.. Classic Escapes assumes no liability for the acts of the service provider in refusing service.

ELECTRONIC OR HANDWRITTEN SIGNATURE: Both parties agree that you may acknowledge and agree to these Terms: (i) electronically; (ii) by handwritten signature; (iii) by any other electronic means, including, without limitation, via email acceptance of these Terms; or (iv) by your implied consent deemed via your actions, which shall include without limitation the payment of the invoice in part or in full or your use of the services provided by Classic Escapes or any other travel supplier related to your booking.

All such means will be deemed to constitute effective acknowledgement and execution of this Agreement and shall be sufficient to bind the parties to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS: We reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to change these Terms and Conditions at any time. Updated versions of the Terms will be provided to you, will be posted on our website, and are effective immediately on posting.

GOVERNING LAW: The construction, validity, and performance of these Terms and any disputes between the parties shall be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of New York, without giving effect to its conflict of law principles, and any federal laws applicable therein. Both parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the State of New York with respect to any legal proceedings relating to these Terms.



RESERVATION FORM: WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA ~ BENIN, TOGO & GHANA 27AFG1018CCC

Enclosed is my deposit for \$ _____ (\$2,400 per person) to hold _____ place(s) on the tour to Benin, Togo & Ghana departing on October 13, 2027. Check Your Journey at a Glance for all costs associated to this tour. Deposits may be made by credit card at no additional cost. For final payments, see information below, as there is a 5% fee for payments made by credit card.

Final payments can be made by credit card, check, or wire transfer. If you choose to pay your final balance via credit card, a non-refundable 5% processing fee will be added to the amount charged. By selecting this payment method, you acknowledge and agree to this additional fee. Please indicate below how you wish to make your payment.

I will pay my deposit by: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ Check ☐ Wire Transfer

I will pay my balance by: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ Check ☐ Wire Transfer

(Credit Card Authorization form needs to be completed and returned to Classic Escapes via mail, scan and email, or fax to 718-204-4726)

Please make checks payable to CLASSIC ESCAPES and mail to 191 W Poplar Street, Floral Park, NY 11001

Final payment due date is July 10, 2027

A copy of your passport must accompany this form to confirm reservation. Upon receipt of your signed reservation form, passport copy and deposit we will, subject to availability, reserve your spot on the tour. Passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the return of your trip and have four consecutive blank pages in the visa section.

1) NAME (As appears on passport): ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. _____ Date of Birth (M/D/Y) ____/____/____

2) NAME (As appears on passport): ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. _____ Date of Birth (M/D/Y) ____/____/____

NAME YOU WISH TO BE CALLED IF DIFFERENT THAN ABOVE 1) _____ 2) _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONES: HOME: () _____ OFFICE: () _____ MOBILE: () _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ FAX: () _____

☐ I certify that I have not recently been treated for, nor am I aware of any physical or other condition or liability that would create a hazard to myself or the other members of this tour.

☐ The two of us above are sharing a room and, where possible, would like a room with: ☐ ONE ☐ TWO Beds (Make one selection only)

☐ I am sharing with _____ (form sent separately)

☐ I need assistance in securing a roommate. I understand if one cannot be located for me by final payment date, I agree to pay the additional single supplement amount listed on the Journey at a Glance page. I prefer to share with: ☐ Smoker ☐ Non-smoker

☐ I desire single accommodations, if available, and will pay the single supplement additional cost

CLASSIC ESCAPES CAN ASSIST WITH INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS FROM ANY US CITY.

☐ YES, I WILL REQUIRE ASSISTANCE. PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION TO DEPART FROM _____
I REQUIRE: ☐ ECONOMY ☐ BUSINESS/FIRST CLASS

All rates quoted are based on tariffs and value of foreign currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar in effect as of June 2, 2026, and are subject to change. Cancellation penalties are applicable as outlined in the Conditions of Travel. **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU OBTAIN TRAVEL INSURANCE. RESERVATIONS ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO TOUR CONDITIONS AND WILL BE CONFIRMED ONLY IF ACCOMPANIED BY COMPLETED FORM SIGNED BY THE TOUR PARTICIPANT(S).**

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

CLASSIC ESCAPES INC.
191 W Poplar Street
Floral Park, NY 11001

(We recommend that you keep a copy of your selections as noted above for your future reference)

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

Please Note: If you wish to charge your deposit to Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover, this authorization form MUST be completed and returned to us along with your reservation form before we can process your application.

I authorize (**Classic Escapes Inc.**) to charge my VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER/AMEX listed below:

Name appearing on credit card _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Card Verification Number* _____ Card Type _____

Billing address of credit card _____

Amount of transaction _____

Services rendered/Items purchased _____

Phone number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

***How To Locate Your Card Verification Number:**

(**Visa, MasterCard, Discover:** Locate the credit card number on the back of the card above the signature box. Enter the 3 digit number which follows the credit card number. **American Express:** Enter the 4 digit number found directly above and to the right of the credit card number.)

I understand that all rates quoted on this tour I'm making a payment on are based on tariffs and value of foreign currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar in effect as of June 2, 2026, and are subject to change Cancellations are only effective on receipt of written notification. The following per person fees are applicable on this tour:

- Up to 96 days prior to departure (July 9, 2027), \$300 per person administrative fee, plus \$500 non-refundable deposits given to suppliers.
- 95 days to 76 days prior to departure (July 10 to July 29 2027), deposit is forfeited.
- 75 days to 60 days prior to departure (July 30 to August 14, 2027), 25% refund is possible.
- 59 days or less prior to departure (August 15, 2027), no refund is possible.

Certain services may be non-refundable from the time of booking and may be subject to separate supplier-imposed penalties. These cancellation fees are also in addition to any fees imposed by airlines.

PLEASE NOTE: At times, our bank requires photocopy of credit card (both sides) and driver's license or document showing signature of cardholder, in order to process the charge. While it is not required at this time that you include these materials with your deposit, if our bank requests it, we will contact you for these copies.